

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 04477 110945Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 W
-----079711 112119Z /61
R 110815Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7770
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4477

SY CHANNEL

NAIROBI FOR SSS
DEPT FOR A/SY/FO PHIL HARRICK; A/SY/SAS GORDON HARVEY

FROM RSO STAFFORD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: DIVERSION OF FUNDS AT WACASC

1. A REVIEW OF RECORDS BY FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTOR (JIM THORSEN) REVEALED A HISTORY AND ONGOING DIVERSION OF FUNDS AT WACASC, INVOLVING THE PROCEEDS OF SALE FROM SURPLUS, DAMAGED AND SCRAP MATERIAL (REF. FAM 234.4-3). BASED ON RECEIPTS, 'VOUCHERS' AND OTHER RECORDS FOUND IN THE SAFE OF WACASC CASHIER, THE CASHIER NAIRA FUND CONTAINS ABOUT \$1,969 DOLLARS (U.S.) IN CASH, WHILE FRAGMENTARY RECORDS REFLECT APPROXIMATELY \$3,700 DOLLARS (U.S.). HOWEVER, RECORDS AVAILABLE AT WACASC ARE INCOMPLETE.

2. THE EXISTENCE OF THIS FUND WAS KNOWN TO THE WACASC DIRECTOR PAUL EGLE, TO HIS PREDECESSOR AND OTHER WACASC STAFF MEMBERS, AS RECORDS APPEAR TO INDICATE. FILES ALSO REFLECT THAT A WACASC GUEST HOUSE SHOWS A PREVIOUS PATTERN OF FREQUENT USE BY 'PAN AM', BUT THERE ARE NO RECORDS OF RECEIPTS OR EXPENDITURES. MR. ENGLE ADVISED INSPECTOR THORSEN, THAT THIS PRACTICE HAS CEASED
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AND HE IS UNAWARE OF ANY TRANSACTIONS RELATED TO PAN AM OR OTHER USE.

3. WACASC DIRECTOR ENGLE INFORMED FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS THAT CASH ON HAND IN THE NAIRA FUND WILL BE FORWARDED PROMPTLY TO RFC PARIS AND THAT A COPY OF THE FORM FS-459 WILL BE PROVIDED TO INSPECTOR THORSEN FOR FOLLOW-UP. THE QUESTION OF RESTITUTION

AND BY WHOM HAS ALSO BEEN RAISED BY THE INSPECTORS.

4. THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTION TEAM, AFTER BRIEFING THE AMBASSADOR AND RSO, DEPARTED ON MARCH 6. THE INSPECTION TEAM RECOMMENDED THAT A COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT BE MADE OF WACASC IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRANSITION TO A WORKING CAPITAL FUND. THIS WOULD REQUIRE AN AUDIT TEAM WHO WOULD ALSO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE LINKS BETWEEN WACASC AND AECAWA, THE COMMISSARY ARM OF PRESENT ACTIVITIES AT WACASC.

5. INSPECTOR THORSEN PROVIDED RSO WITH PHOTOCOPIES OF WACASC RECORDS FOR FILE PURPOSES AND FUTURE REFERENCE.

6. RSO REQUESTS GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT IF HE IS REQUIRED TO TAKE ACTION.

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Message Attributes

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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: ASEC, PORS, AFIN, PINR, AFSP, NI, WACASC, AECAWA, (THORSEN, JIM), (EGLE, PAUL)
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